

REMARKS

Claims 9-11, 68, 70-72, 75, 77-89 and 93-98 are pending and under examination. The specification has been amended to update the first paragraph containing the priority claim. Claims 9-11 and 68 have been cancelled. Claim 72 has been amended to depend from claim 75 and to correct antecedent basis. Claims 87, 93 and 96 have been amended to correct a typographical error. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and the claims as filed. Accordingly, these amendments do not raise an issue of new matter and entry thereof is respectfully requested. Entry of the proposed amendments is respectfully submitted to be proper because the amendments are believed to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that claims 9-11, 70-72, 75, 77-89 and 93-98 are allowable.

Upon review of the pending claims, it was noted that claims 9-11, which were amended in the previous response to depend from claim 75, are identical in scope to claims 81-83. Therefore, claims 9-11 were cancelled. Claim 72 has been amended to depend from claim 75 in light of the cancellation of claim 68 and to correct antecedent basis.

The rejection of claim 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite is respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of this claim and requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In light of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice to this effect. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent if there are any questions.

Serial No.: 09/706,325

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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